REMARKS

The allowance of claims 13-17 and the statement by the Examiner that claims 3-8 and 10-12 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 13, 15 and 17 have been amended and new claims 18-26 have been added. The Application now contains claims 1-26, of which claims 13-17 have been allowed. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claims 13, 15 and 17 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors, and not for reasons relating to patentability.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brehmer (U.S. Patent No. 6,130,423). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites an imaging device comprising "a plurality of active pixel sensor cells" and "a readout circuit." The readout circuit includes an amplifier. According to claim 1, the amplifier comprises "a first branch including the row select transistor and the output transistor of each of a plurality of said active pixel sensor cells and a first transistor having a different conductivity type than a conductivity type of the row select and output transistors, said amplifier further comprising a second branch including at least a second transistor having a same conductivity type as the first transistor, a source follower transistor and at least one additional transistor having a same conductivity type as the row select and output transistors." Applicant respectfully submits that Brehmer fails to disclose the claimed invention.

Brehmer does not disclose a two branch amplifier in which the first branch includes a first transistor having a different conductivity type than a conductivity type

of the row select and output transistors within the first branch. The input circuit of the Brehmer amplifier contains transistors of the same conductivity type (see Brehmer Figure 6). Moreover, Brehmer does not disclose a second branch including at least a second transistor having a same conductivity type as the first transistor, a source follower transistor and at least one additional transistor having a same conductivity type as the row select and output transistors, as is recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Brehmer. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is allowable along with claim 1. The rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1 and 2 allowed.

Claims 3-8 and 10-12 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are otherwise allowable. Pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation, claim 3 has been amended such that it is rewritten as an independent claim including the limitations of its base claim. The Office Action has indicated that claim 3 as amended in this manner is allowable. Claims 4-8 and 10-12 depend from claim 3 and are allowable along with claim 3 for at least the reasons set forth in the Office Action and on their own merits. The objection should be withdrawn and claims 3-8 and 10-12 allowed.

Withdrawn claim 9 has been amended to depend from generic claim 3. Applicant respectfully requests that the patentability of claim 9 be considered since it now depends from a generic claim.
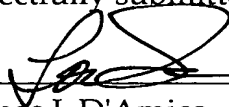
New claim 18 depends from allowed claim 13 and is allowable for at least the reason set forth in the Office Action and on its own merits.

New claims 19-26 have been added and recite subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: June 14, 2004   Respectfully submitted,

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